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SUBJECT: QADHAFI VISITS SUDAN; CALLS FOR SUDAN, LIBYAN,  
EGYPTIAN UNITY; CRITICIZES RELIGION IN GOVERNMENT

REF: KHARTOUM 11006

¶1. SUMMARY: LIBYA'S QADHAFI VISITED KHARTOUM OCTOBER 20-23 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE OCTOBER 1964 REVOLUTION. WHILE HERE, HE ADDRESSED THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONFERENCE ON THE POLITICAL SYSTEM (NDCPS). QADHAFI CALLED FOR ARAB UNITY, PARTICULARLY UNION BETWEEN SUDAN, EGYPT, AND LIBYA. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO CONVINCE SPLA LEADER JOHN GARANG TO END THE REBELLION AGAINST THE GOS. QADHAFI ALSO MET WITH THE SUDANESE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR OVER TWO HOURS AND MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR KEEPING RELIGION (READ ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM) OUT OF GOVERNMENT. MOST SUDANESE ARE PLEASED WITH THE SPEECH, BUT MANY BELIEVE IT WAS COORDINATED WITH, IF NOT DIRECTED BY MUBARAK. END SUMMARY.

¶2. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF QADHAFI'S SPEECH TO THE NDCPS, AS REPORTED BY THE SUDAN NEWS AGENCY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

HE RECALLED THAT HE AND EGYPT'S NASSER ADVOCATED SUDAN-EGYPT-LIBYA UNITY IN THE EARLY 1970'S BUT SUDAN'S NIMEIRI WAS OPPOSED DUE TO "UNFOUNDED SENSITIVITIES OF EGYPT AND SUDAN."

HE MENTIONED SEVERAL ARAB TRIBES FOUND IN THE THREE COUNTRIES CITING THIS AS AN EVIDENCE OF AN "INHERENT UNITY OF THEIR INHABITANTS."

SUDAN, EGYPT, AND LIBYA ARE RICH IN NATURAL AS WELL AS HUMAN RESOURCES AND, IF UNIFIED, THEY CAN FORM A POWERFUL STATE.

REFERRING TO THE NDCPS RECOMMENDATION THAT PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES FORM THE GOS, QADHAFI SAID THIS IS A TURNING POINT IN ARAB HISTORY IN WHICH THE SUDANESE PEOPLE HAVE OPTED FOR THE PEOPLE'S POWER WHICH WAS HERALDED BY LIBYA.

HE CALLED THE PARLIAMENTARY, PARTISAN, AND GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS "NONSENSE" SAYING THAT THEY HAVE BECOME OBSOLETE AND HAVE GIVEN WAY TO HIS "JAMAHIRYA STYLE" IN WHICH THERE IS NO ROOM FOR GOVERNMENT AND IN WHICH THE PEOPLE RUN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS THROUGH THEIR PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES AND CONGRESSES. HE PREDICTED THAT THE JAMAHIRYA SYSTEM AND THE PEOPLE'S POWER WOULD BE PRACTICED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

HE HAILED AND EXPRESSED HIS FULL SUPPORT TO RCC CHAIRMAN AND HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL OMAR AL BASHIR AND HIS AIDES WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "THE FIRST SUDANESE LEADERSHIP THAT OPTED TO DEVOLVE POWER TO THE PEOPLE BY CHOOSING THE POPULAR POWER WHICH IS TO BE EXERCISED BY THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES AND CONGRESSES."

QADHAFI SAID THAT SPLA LEADER JOHN GARANG WAS A MEMBER OF THE LIBYAN-BASED INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION WHICH ADVOCATED PEOPLE'S POWER TO PREVAIL IN THE WORLD, AND HE PLEDGED TO TRY TO CONVINCE GARANG TO TERMINATE HIS

REBELLION NOW THAT A JAMAHIRYA SYSTEM WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN SUDAN.

HE SAID THAT LIBYA HAD ARMED AND TRAINED GARANG WHEN HE WAS FIGHTING PRESIDENT NIMEIRI BUT NOW HAD STOPPED SUPPLYING GARANG WITH ARMS. HE ADDED THAT IF GARANG WOULD NOT JOIN "THE MASSES OF THE SUDAN" LIBYA WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN AGAINST GARANG IN SUPPORT OF THE SUDANESE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT.

APPARENTLY IN A LIGHT REBUKE TO EGYPT FOR ITS INDIFFERENCE TOWARD THE SOUTHERN SUDAN PROBLEM, QADHAFI SAID EGYPT SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT DEFENSE OF SOUTHERN SUDAN WOULD PROTECT EGYPT AND THAT SECESSION OF SOUTH SUDAN IS HAZARDOUS TO EGYPT.

HE PREDICTED THAT THE SOUTHERN SUDAN PROBLEM WOULD WITHER AWAY IF UNITY OF SUDAN, EGYPT AND LIBYA WAS ACHIEVED.

HE DECLARED THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD BE STAGED IN ALL ARAB COUNTRIES AS OF THE FIRST DAY OF NEXT JANUARY PEACEFULLY DEMANDING ABOLITION OF BORDERLINES SEPARATING THE ARAB COUNTRIES FROM ONE ANOTHER.

13. QADHAFI'S EVENING SPEECH TO THE STUDENTS WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY GENERAL OMAR. CHARACTERIZED AS "BLUNT," IT CALLED FOR A SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. QADHAFI EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR RELIGION IN GOVERNMENT, DEFENSE, ADMINISTRATION, OR EVEN JUSTICE, A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO SHARIA.

14. COMMENT: DESPITE THE SHOW OF SOLIDARITY AND THE RHETORIC, SERIOUS OBSTACLES REMAIN TO FULLY DEVELOPING GOS-GOL TIES. GIVEN THE PRIMARILY ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST BENT OF QADHAFI'S EVENING AUDIENCE, HE SENT A CLEAR NEGATIVE SIGNAL TO OMAR AND THE NIF. RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND SUDAN'S FUNDAMENTALISTS HAVE NEVER BEEN CLOSE. THE RECENT ARREST OF 200 "ISLAMISTS" IN LIBYA WAS NOTICED BY SENIOR NIF MEMBER WHO COMMENTED ON QADHAFI'S ANTIPATHY TOWARD ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM. THE GOL-GOS UNITY DECLARATION AND THE FEW ALMOST INSIGNIFICANT STEPS TO IMPLEMENT IT HAVE NOT HELPED THE RELATIONSHIP.

15. MOST SUDANESE WERE PLEASED WITH QADHAFI'S SPEECH, SINCE THEY SEE IT AS A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE NIF. THEY ALL NOTE THAT "NO SUDANESE COULD HAVE SAID WHAT QADHAFI SAID." MANY BELIEVE THAT EGYPT'S MUBARAK WAS BEHIND THE SPEECH; IF NOT, HE ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS CONSULTED. IN ANY EVENT, THE MESSAGE IS THE SAME THAT MUBARAK REPORTEDLY GAVE OMAR A YEAR AGO DURING HIS VISIT TO KHARTOUM. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT AS BLUNT AS THE SPEECH WAS, QADHAFI WAS EVEN MORE BLUNT IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS OVER NIF INFLUENCE, SHARIA AND SUDAN'S INABILITY TO FEED ITSELF IN SUCH A RICH COUNTRY. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THE PROLIFERATION OF GENERALS IN THE SPAF, NOTING THERE WERE "TOO MANY STARS ON THEIR SHOULDERS."

16. QADHAFI'S OFFER TO INTERCEDE WITH GARANG IS PROBABLY MORE SHOW THAN SUBSTANCE. QADHAFI STILL MAINTAINS CLOSE TIES TO FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER MUBARAK AL FADIL AL MAHDI, COUSIN OF THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER SADIQ AL MAHDI AND SENIOR UMMA PARTY OFFICIAL, WHO SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH GARANG EARLIER THIS YEAR. QADHAFI THUS HAS A COMMUNICATION CHANNEL IF HE WISHES TO USE IT. AS FOR QADHAFI'S THREAT TO TURN AGAINST GARANG, HE IS ALREADY FURNISHING SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GOS.

17. QADHAFI'S PERFORMANCE MAY WELL FEED DOUBTS AMONG THE GOS LEADERSHIP ABOUT HIS RELIABILITY AS AN ALLY AND FURTHER STIMULATE THEIR COURTSHIP OF IRAN, WHICH THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

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